WOLVERINE® ORIGINS

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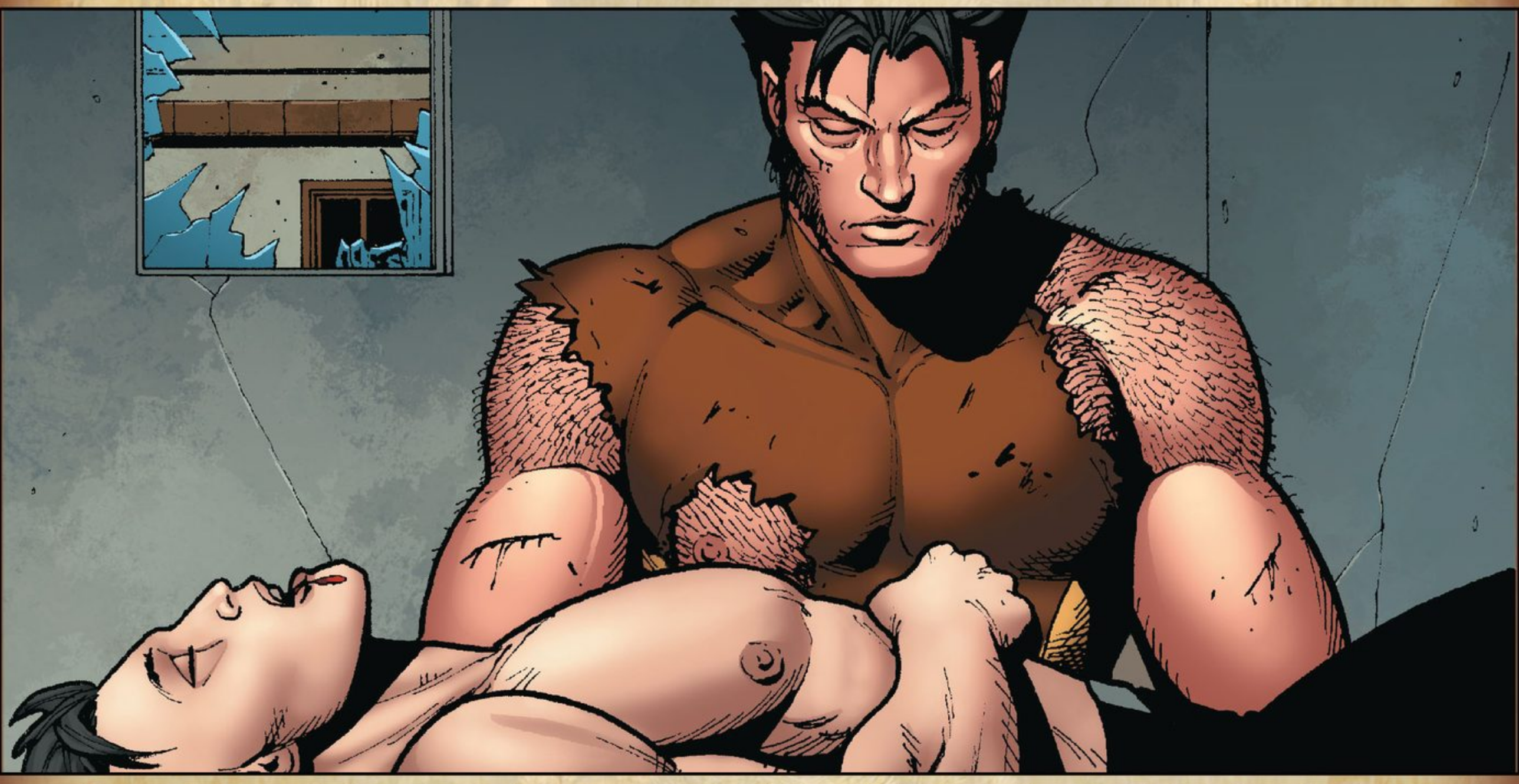
WOLVERINE
ORIGINS

The mutant Wolverine has spent a century fighting those who would manipulate him for his unique powers—savage claws, heightened senses, and a healing factor capable of miracles. After repeated brainwashing, torture, and reprogramming, Wolverine's past was as much a mystery to him as to anyone. With those long-lost memories finally returned to him, Wolverine has set out on a mission to punish the conspirators who have wronged him.



Recently, one of these conspirators was revealed to be Daken, the son Logan long believed to have died in the womb, when his pregnant mother was murdered. Ruthless, savage and with powers much like his father's, Daken has taken it upon himself to break Wolverine… regardless of the cost. Faced with a threat that has every one of his strengths, Logan employs the only known weapon against his mutant healing ability, the highly volatile compound Carbonadium. Rendering Daken unconscious, Logan takes him away to parts unknown…

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TULE LAKE WAR RELOCATION CENTER
NEWELL, CALIFORNIA
1943

IT AIN'T LIKE I'M THE *ONLY* FELLA EVER DONE BAD...

...BUT THERE'S FEW THAT'VE DONE *WORSE.*

〈I AM YOUR FRIEND.〉*

〈I AM HERE TO HELP YOU.〉

* *TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.*

〈YOU ARE UNWANTED IN THIS COUNTRY. HOWEVER, DUE TO BOTH THE WAR AND THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SUSPECTS YOU MAY BE SPIES, YOU WILL NOT BE DEPORTED BACK TO JAPAN.〉

〈INSTEAD, YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES WILL REMAIN DETAINED INDEFINITELY. YOU HAVE NO RIGHTS. YOU HAVE NO RECOURSE. I AM OFFERING YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE THIS.〉

〈DO YOU ACCEPT MY OFFER?〉

WHAT ABOUT THEIR FAMILIES?

YOU KNOW THE *ORDERS.*

EVEN THE...THE *CHILDREN?*

BELIEVE ME, PAL...

"...THE NEXT GENERATION WILL ONLY BE *WORSE.*"

SON OF X

PART 1 OF 2

MEDICINE LAKE LAVA BEDS; NEAR NEWELL, CALIFORNIA

THIS IS WHERE I BROUGHT 'EM.

ELEVEN MEN, CONDEMNED TO A FATE WORSE'N DEATH.

BY ME.

HAD TO USE MY SENSE O' SMELL TO FIND THE WAY.

THE CAVES--LAVA TUBES, ACTUALLY--WENT ON FOR MILES IN COMPLETE DARKNESS. THOSE MEN MUST'VE THOUGHT I WAS TAKIN' 'EM TO HELL.

I WAS.

DON'T KNOW THE EXACT DETAILS, AS FAR AS WHAT THEY WERE DOIN' TO THOSE POOR BASTARDS OR *WHY*...

...BUT MY ORDERS WERE SIMPLE:

I WAS THE GUARD DOG.

ONLY I KEPT PEOPLE *IN* INSTEAD O' *OUT*.

IF ANYBODY RAN--AN' A FEW OF 'EM DID--I PUT 'EM DOWN QUICK AN' CLEAN.

HUFF... HUFF...

ANYBODY.

WHERE YA THINK *YER* GOIN', SOLDIER?

I...I CAN'T DO THIS! *IT'S UNHOLY!*

ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU GOT *RELIGION*, EH?

BETTER HURRY UP AN' *PRAY*, THEN...

BLAM!

THE EXPERIMENT WENT ON FOR 118 DAYS.

DURIN' THAT TIME, WHOEVER COMMISSIONED THE STUDY EITHER *DID* OR *DIDN'T* FIND OUT WHAT THEY WANTED TO KNOW.

ONLY THING I WAS TOLD WAS THAT NO ONE WAS TO EVER KNOW *ABOUT* IT.

THE EXPERIMENTERS...

THE VICTIMS...

...EVEN THE LAB.

NOW I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO DOES.

THIS IS WHERE YOU'RE GONNA LAY LOW WHILE I FINISH UP MY BUSINESS WITH *ROMULUS*.

WHEN I COME BACK, I'LL BRING SOMEONE TO HELP YOU.

YOUR MOTHER...

...HER NAME WAS *ITSU*...IT MEANS "*PEACE*".

WHY IS THERE NO PEACE IN *YOU*?

HRRRAAAAAH!!

SENDAI, MIYAGI PREFECTURE JAPAN, 1946

〈AKIHIRA? WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND?〉

〈IT IS A BABY... A BOY.〉

〈SOMEONE HAS *LEFT US* A *BABY BOY.*〉

〈DO YOU SEE, NATSUMI?〉

〈IT'S WHAT WE'VE ALWAYS *DREAMED* OF...〉

〈OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED!〉

〈FOR YEARS, WE HAVE PRAYED FOR A SON, BUT IT WAS AS IF THE *KAMI* WERE DEAF TO THESE PRAYERS. BUT NOW...〉

〈YOU ARE HERE. YOU ARE MY SON.〉

〈AND WHAT IS MINE SHALL BE YOURS.〉

〈BUT FIRST YOU WILL NEED A *NAME*.〉

〈NOT JAPANESE...〉

〈MIXED HERITAGE...〉

〈MONGREL...〉

DAKEN.

〈DO NOT CALL ME "DAKEN"!〉

〈MY NAME IS AKIHIRO!〉

〈IN THE HOUSE, YOU ARE AKIHIRO, SON OF AKIHIRA.〉

〈BUT OUT HERE, TO US...〉

NINE YEARS LATER

〈...YOU ARE DAKEN.〉

〈THE MONGREL WHO FOUND HIS WAY INTO THE MASTER'S CUPBOARD.〉

HRRAAAH!

--HU-UK!

〈WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE?〉

〈FATHER, DO NOT BE ALARMED.〉

〈THESE BOYS WERE... *TEACHING* ME.〉

〈A *LESSON.*〉

〈AND WHAT IS THE LESSON?〉

〈THE LESSON THEY HAVE TAUGHT ME, FATHER, IS THAT THE *FOOL* RUSHES INTO A FIGHT WHEN HE IS OUTNUMBERED...〉

〈...THE *WISE MAN* WAITS UNTIL HIS ENEMIES ARE *ALONE.*〉

‹NNOOOOOO!›

TONA

SANO

‹COME, AKIHIRO, TO THE *TORRI*.›

‹WE MUST PRAY.›

〈THERE IS NOTHING MORE TRAGIC THAN FOR A FATHER TO LIVE BEYOND THE LIFE OF A SON.〉

〈IT WAS HERE THAT I PRAYED FOR YOUR ARRIVAL. IT IS HERE, NOW, THAT I PRAY YOU NEVER LEAVE ME.〉

〈YOU ARE MY SON, AKIHIRO. NO WORDS CAN EVER MAKE IT NOT SO.〉

〈WHAT IS IT--? WHY ARE YOU SHAKING?〉

〈IT IS NOT THE ***DRAGON*** THAT YOU FEAR, AKIHIRO; IT IS THE POWER THAT IT REPRESENTS. ***THIS*** IS THE MAGIC OF SYMBOLS.〉

〈IS THE DRAGON THE ***MOST*** POWERFUL, FATHER?〉

〈THE DRAGON, FATHER.〉

〈IT... FRIGHTENS ME.〉

〈YES, AKIHIRO. THE MOST ***POWERFUL...***〉

〈...AND THE MOST ***FEARED.***〉

〈PLEASE, HUSBAND, FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY...〉

〈...BUT I HAVE NO LOVE IN MY HEART FOR AKIHIRO.〉

〈HOW CAN YOU SAY THIS? HE HAS BROUGHT US SUCH HAPPINESS!〉

〈BUT, HUSBAND-- DO YOU FEEL YOUR EMOTIONS ARE STILL YOUR OWN?〉

〈OUR HAPPINESS COMES ONLY WHEN ***HE*** IS HAPPY. HAVE YOU NOT NOTICED THAT WHEN HE IS ANGRY, WE FEEL ***THAT*** AS WELL?〉

〈THE BOY IS CURSED, AND WE HAVE BROUGHT THIS CURSE INTO OUR HOUSE!〉

〈***ENOUGH.***〉

〈IT HAS BEEN ONLY A FEW YEARS, NATSUMI...GIVEN TIME, LOVE FOR THE BOY WILL GROW INSIDE YOU--〉

〈NO, HUSBAND. IT WILL NOT.〉

〈BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE...〉

〈...THAT ***DOES*** GROW INSIDE ME.〉

--OH!

〈AKIHIRO, I APOLOGIZE. I DID NOT KNOW YOU WERE–〉

〈DO NOT APOLOGIZE, MOTHER.〉

ONE YEAR LATER

〈PLEASE, SIT.〉

〈I HAVE FOUND THE MOST WONDERFUL BOOK.〉

〈THIS IS WRITTEN IN GREEK! HAS YOUR FATHER TAUGHT YOU--?〉

〈I TAUGHT MYSELF.〉

〈SIT.〉

〈IT IS A BOOK ABOUT THE SPARTANS...〉

〈...THE MOST FEARED WARRIORS THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN.〉

〈DID YOU KNOW THAT IF A SPARTAN WOMAN GAVE BIRTH TO A BABY THAT SHE THOUGHT WAS UNWORTHY, SHE LEFT IT ON THE CLIFFS TO DIE?〉

〈BUT OFTEN, THE PEASANTS CAME AND TOOK THESE BABIES TO RAISE AS THEIR OWN.〉

〈PERHAPS THAT'S WHAT I AM, MOTHER? A ***GREAT WARRIOR*** WHO WAS ABANDONED ON A CLIFF BY A ***WOMAN'S FOOLISHNESS?***

〈DO YOU... CONSIDER ME A ***PEASANT***, THEN?〉

〈NO, MOTHER.〉

〈I CONSIDER YOU A ***FOOL.***〉

"〈AND I CONSIDER YOUR BABY TO BE UNWORTHY.〉"

〈LEAVE THIS HOUSE, NEVER TO RETURN.〉

〈FATHER, NO--!〉

〈I RENOUNCE YOU AS MY SON.〉

〈NO LONGER SHALL YOU HAVE THE NAME AKIHIRO.〉

〈THAT WAS NEVER MY TRUE NAME, ANYWAY.〉

〈MURDERER!〉

KRA-KOOM

〈FATHER...?〉

〈I... CANNOT.〉

〈I AM WEAK.〉

KRAM

〈WHO--?〉

〈IS SOMEONE WATCHING?〉

〈WHO IS THERE?〉

〈LOOK DEEP INTO THE SHADOWS, AND THERE YOU WILL FIND ME.〉

〈WH-WHO ARE YOU?〉

〈I AM WHAT YOU WILL BECOME.〉

ROMULUS.

WHERE ARE YOU?

ALL THE PIECES ARE COMIN' TOGETHER, BUT I STILL DON'T HAVE A TARGET. JUST A NAME.

ROMULOS

SNIKT!

WHUDD!

SSSSSSHHHK

HYEEH--!

HRRRR...

WROKK!

<IT IS HIM!>

<BUT HIS FACE...THE SAME!>

<IT CANNOT BE!>

<HE WAKES!>

<DO YOU REMEMBER US, GAIJIN?>

<WE REMEMBER YOU...>

WAY + SEGOVIA

CONTINUED...